

DIPPERS OF THE DALE

Monday 16th November 2009

My love of the Dipper started as a small boy and over the years they have always brought a smile to my face with its charismatic nature, and bobbing or dipping movements which I've always viewed as the bird 'Curtseying' for you. I would like to pass on the respect and knowledge I have for these birds in these small one day workshops with only two guest's plus myself. I will take you to the beautiful Valleys and Dales of the Peak District whose rivers support one of the best populations of Dipper's in the country.

The Peak District will provide you with some excellent photo opportunities for landscape images too, with its open slopes, rocky outcrops and impressive waterfalls and weirs and I will show you the path I've used and know for years to enjoy the beauty of this beautiful place.

Dipper's forage for small prey in and around the fast-flowing streams and rivers of this area, walking down and beneath the water until partly or wholly submerged, this behaviour will offer you brilliant opportunities to photography and capture this unique moment and I will always point out during the day what to look out for, explain the particular action/behaviour so from the start you will have a better understanding of this bird so you can enjoy your time a lot more and truly see this 'Master Of The River' at work. My workshop will be run alongside the guidelines set down by Natural England and the photographers code, where I will show you and teach the right ways to see these birds with minimal disturbance, keeping a safe distance from key sites and in turn the Dipper will be more relaxed which in turn offers you the best chances to capture them. I will show you the camera setting to use, slow-Shutter speeds to freeze the water, show you everything I know to capture the images of Dippers I have.

Other species we will hopefully see during the day will be the beautiful Water vole, Great-spotted woodpecker, Grey wagtails, and all the common British birds, stoats and during the summer months a small area has the 'Jacob's-Ladder'(Polemonium caeruleum) a neat-looking plant that has ladder-like leaves, with pale blue-violet petals, a rare and beautiful flower, along with the stunning landscape photos you will not be short on choice

Recommended Kit

You will need to provide your own photographic equipment. A 500mm lens is absolutely ideal, but a 300mm with converters will be fine and if you are a Nikon User I have spare lens you may use, a wide-angle lens is a must also for the Landscape opportunities, and a stable tripod too

Additional information

Appropriate footwear and clothing is very important, walking boots are ideal and muted/camouflaged clothing which is waterproof is a must due to the field craft skills I will teach you to help you enjoy and get the most out of your day to the very best.

Costs

£150.00 including a packed lunch, hot/cold drink they last from dusk till dawn and the meeting place is in Derbyshire please contact me for further details or booking

Future Dates include

Friday 27th November 2009, Monday 7th December 2009, Friday 18th December 2009 & Friday 8th January 2010